

TO: Hospital Administrators  
Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Directors

FROM: Paul Dreyer, Ph.D., Director

RE: Special Project to Allow Hospitals with Cardiac Catheterization Services  
But Without Cardiac Surgery Services to Provide Primary Angioplasty in  
the Treatment of Acute Myocardial Infarction

DATE: June 15, 2000

CIRCULAR LETTER: DHCQ 6-00-405

Since 1997, the Department has been conducting a special project under the hospital licensure regulations at 105 CMR 130.051 to allow hospitals that do not have cardiac surgery services but meet certain criteria specified by the Department to perform primary angioplasty for the treatment of patients with acute myocardial infarction. From 1997 through April 5, 1999, the hospitals approved to participate in the special project were required to participate in the Atlantic Cardiovascular Patient Outcomes Research Team (C-PORT) study, a randomized trial being conducted out of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. With the discontinuation of additional enrollment in the C-PORT study due to lack of funding, the Department, with the assistance of its Invasive Cardiac Services Advisory Committee, revised the special project to allow hospitals already participating to continue to perform primary angioplasty as well as to allow additional hospitals to apply for participation in the special project.

Attached please find the Department's guidelines for "Special Project: Primary Angioplasty". This notice supersedes the previous circular letter (DHCQ 5-97-361), which described the 1997 application process and participation requirements. The Department will begin to accept new applications for the special project on June 22, 2000. Applications should be directed to:

Maureen Foley  
Division of Health Care Quality  
10 West St., 6<sup>th</sup> fl.  
Boston, MA 02111

If you have any questions about the special project, please contact Maureen Foley at (617) 753-8178 or Nancy Murphy at (617) 753-8120.